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WHOLE No. 66

## THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY,

CONDUCTED BY

E. L. YOUMANS.

No. XIII.

PRICE, FIFTY CENTS.

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- IV. The Black Death in England. By Hezekiah Butterworth, Esq.
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APRIL 19, 1873.

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*Complaints are daily increasing that postmasters, discrediting the official stamp of the New York Post Office, continue to enforce from our subscribers wrongful collection of postage. The postage on the "Publishers' Weekly" has, since the establishment of the paper, been paid by us. All our applications to the Postal Department having failed to protect ourselves either against neglect of duty or fraudulent collection, the "Publishers' Weekly" hereafter will be mailed POSTAGE UNPAID, the price of subscription remaining unchanged for the present. Subscribers are requested to pay the postage on the "Weekly," from April 5, at their own post-office. The postage on the "Weekly" is 5 cents per quarter, or 20 cents per annum, payable in advance. Old subscribers will be credited for any postage thus paid by them until the end of their current subscription. The amount will be deducted from their next bill for renewal, or, if preferred, refunded in stamps.*

*All claims for wrongfully collected postage, previous to April 1, should be made at once at this office, in order to enable us to report them to the proper authority.*

*We have forwarded to the Postmaster-General, in Washington, a communication, complaining of these wrongful collections as well as of the constant irregularities in the delivery of the "Weekly."*

*On the first of May next, the office of the PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY will be removed to the "World" Building, No. 37 Park Row.*

## Postal Cards.

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1873.—The Third Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. E. W. Barber, has given notice that the necessary appropriation having been made for the purpose, the Department will, on the first of May next, commence the issue to postmasters of the postal cards authorized by the act of June 8, 1872.

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Postmasters will not under any circumstances be permitted to reduce or exchange postal cards that may be misdirected, spoiled in printing, or otherwise rendered unfit for use in the hands of private holders.

The Department will not furnish less than five hundred cards on the order of a postmaster. Individuals desiring postal cards will purchase them of a postmaster, as in no case can they obtain them upon their application to the Department.

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## The Publisher as a Power.

It was the chief crown upon the coffins of those two honored and lately-departed members of the American book-trade, Charles Scribner and George P. Putnam, that it could honestly be said of each of them that he had never placed his *imprimatur* upon a book which he believed to be in any way of evil influence. Nothing better could be said of them as business men.

We find in Mr. Scudder's clever editorial in the current *Riverside Bulletin* so striking an application, not to the dead but to the living, of this principle of the responsibility of the publisher, that we desire to place it before our readers as expressive also of our own views. Taking, as his somewhat forced text, the possible position of the University as a diffuser of learning by printing books, he writes of the publishing business as "A Minor University":

It may be that the University will one day be a trader in books as it is now a trader in personal learning, but we

are disposed to think that there is an equal justification and probability also in the publishing house assuming this legitimate function of the University. That is to say, the University being bound by its high calling to set learning first, and material prosperity second, we can conceive of a publishing house which, never departing from the sound laws of economy which govern right mercantile transactions, should also never rest in the acquisition of material prosperity, but should, first and last, hold such position and wealth to be but the means toward the real end set before it of projecting substantial works in the interests of sound scholarship and good literature.

The conception of this minor University is of a society of educated men, possessed of the apparatus of book manufacture, and engaged in the supply not merely of existing intellectual demands, but also of demands which it has in a measure created. It is, or should be, the centre of literary energy, calling to its service the training of specialists, the best results of mechanic and artistic skill, and sending forth fit and complete publications. It may as properly organize an Encyclopædia, sound in learning and fresh in statement, as a major university plans a curriculum for its students; it may busy itself with the accuracy of the books it publishes, as well as with the correctness of the types. It may and must maintain itself firmly on the sound footing of business integrity, sacrificing courageously its fancies to the stern logic of the bal-

ance sheet, but it may not, it must not forget the obligation upon it to fulfill its highest calling in the defence of sound learning and the construction of pure literature.

These are noble words, that deserve to be writ in letters of gold. The house that sets such a standard for itself, and keeps to its standard, deserves high honor and is likely to attain success. Trash pays, to be sure, but in the long run quality tells best. Friends, look to your epitaphs!

MR. BEECHER usually hits whatever he aims at. Lately he has devoted himself to a certain branch of the publishing business, as witness this extract from one of his recent lectures on preaching at New Haven:

But now it is with children that the Sunday-school library has opened upon them a flood, or rather a swarm, that can be compared to little else than the locusts, the lice and the frogs, often, of Egypt. An immense amount of wishy-washy stuff, and yet wrought together with a certain sort of fictitious and unwholesome interest, as I think, and children are reading all sorts of religious books. "Aunt Nancy" writes them, and "Paul" writes them, and everybody is writing Sunday-school books: the most difficult book in the world to write is a book for a child, yet it is a book everybody thinks he can begin on; and some are in danger of being carried by what might be called the "swill of the house of God."

This is true of too much Sunday-school literature, but we are glad to believe it is a class which is being rapidly superseded. Some of our best writers are at work supplying the young people with reading as excellent and wholesome as it is entertaining.

### NOTES IN SEASON.

A SPECIAL class of books in season are those on agriculture, horticulture, and rural architecture, in all of which the busy season begins with this month. Our American publishers are prolific of this sort of books, and it is a kind which should be kept in stock by every country bookstore. A farmer or gardener will buy a good book when he sees it, which he would never think of ordering. And, whatever may be said about "book farmers" who are too stupid to do anything but waste time in studying, farming books, and those others to which we have referred, in the hands of a sensible man pay abundantly.

A POPULAR book on one of these very subjects is to be issued this week by Dodd & Mead—"Play and Profit in my Garden," by Rev. E. P. Roe, the author of "Barriers Burned Away." Perhaps it isn't every one who can make two thousand a year out of a garden patch, but Mr. Roe shows clearly what can be done and how to do it. He knows how to make an interesting as well as useful book. Miss Anna M. Hyde has had the "happy thought" of making a like book for little folks, in "Work, Play, and Profit," which J. B. Lippincott & Co. are to publish.

THE book of the week is "Kenelm Chillingly," Lord Lytton's last novel, which Harper & Bros. are making by the thousand, in paper and cloth. This is a family novel, in the style of "The Caxtons," and is likely to be received as one of his best works. The Harpers now publish cheap editions of all Bulwer's works, and are preparing "The Parisians," now running through *Blackwood*.

THE last poems of those sweet singers and good women, Alice and Phoebe Cary, are to be edited by Mrs. Mary Clemmer Ames, whom they themselves would have selected for this task, and published by Hurd & Houghton. Mrs. Ames has carefully gathered and arranged the fugitive and hitherto unpublished poems; and the book, with its ballads and tender religious love and nature songs, should find its way beside the old established favorites. Her biography of the sisters is approaching the tenth thousand.

### LITERARY AND TRADE NEWS.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON BANKING by James William Gilbart, F.R.S., formerly Manager of the London and Westminster Bank, is a thorough *resumé* of the banking system as especially exemplified by English usage. Business men will understand the importance to them of this useful work, if they are not already familiar with it. The fourth American edition of this valuable treatise, issued from the office of the *Bankers' Magazine*, forms a book of 458 closely printed octavo pages, to which has been added a large appendix treating of later developments in financial history, of changes that have taken place in late years in bank practice, and giving the author's views of the nature and causes of the panics of 1857 and 1866. This appendix, first printed in this edition, forms an important addition to this invaluable work, and is in fact quite a book in itself, making 154 pages, and going over the whole ground of recent developments in fiscal history. It is marked with the same sagacious insight and practical thoroughness which characterizes the well-known work to which it is appended.

WILLIAM T. HALLETT has prepared a most practical and useful work—a compact volume consisting of blank forms of "Specifications of Frame Houses." Some of these forms have been tested and found satisfactory. Not only do they save labor of writing and make the reading similarly easy, but by their fulness and systematic arrangement they lessen greatly the liability to mistake, and add to the general satisfaction. The forms are written carefully, with a view to alteration by the scratching of words or clauses or the filling in of convenient spaces. The specifications are made for houses ranging in cost from two to twenty thousand dollars. A. J. Bicknell & Co. are the publishers, and issue the volume very neatly with heavy and finely finished paper.

ROBERTS BROS. will begin their series of the works of Camille Flammarion with the author's last work, just issued in Paris, "Recits de l'Infini," "Stories of the Infinite." Mr. S. R. Crocker, who is translating the book, says in his *Literary World*: "The volume contains three parts. The first is a conversation between a living astronomer and the spirit of his deceased friend, also an astronomer, in which the adventures of the latter after his death on earth are minutely narrated. The spirit proceeded directly to Capella, and from that point made the observations here recorded. In the second part is told 'The History of a Comet,' and the third is entitled 'In the Infinite.' The author is a firm believer in the plurality of inhabited worlds, and is a Spiritualist of the highest type. He avails himself with marvellous effect of his extensive scientific knowledge, and so mingles fact and fancy as to bring the reader into a state of bewilderment which is indescribably pleasurable."

DR. T. W. PARSONS has made Dante his life

study, and has completed his translation of the "Purgatorio," which Roberts Bros., will publish during the season. His "Inferno," published some years since, is well known as a fine reproduction of the original.

MR. MICHAEL REESE, a citizen of San Francisco, furnished the necessary \$2,000 to purchase the library of the late Dr. Francis Lieber for presentation to the University of California.

MR. JAMES APPLETON MORGAN, who has been revising his "Macaronic Poetry" for a second edition, is also preparing an account of his European trip.

A FRESH essayist is to be presented to the American public by the Messrs. Macmillan, in Rev. J. A. Picton, a non-conformist English clergyman, and a member of that famous body, the London school board. "The Mystery of Matter, and other Essays," is the title of the work; we have seen the title essay, which is charming in style and of deep thought.

"ABOVE Tempest and Tide" is the title of the translation of a novel by Auber Forestier, which H. N. McKinney & Co. will publish on the 25th. The love story opens with the wooing of a maid by the tender strains of a violin, and develops into a rather mournful but interesting tale. Sophie Verena is the translator.

A. WILLIAMS & Co., of Boston, have issued a new map of Massachusetts, brought down to the present time, showing all the new lines of railroads, the Hoosac Tunnel route, the new branches and extensions, also the new towns and divisions throughout the State, to which is added a new map of the city of Boston, and a complete census.

OIDA's "Pascarel" (republished by Lippincott & Co.) has been received in England more favorably than the earlier works of the author of "Folle-Farine," etc. The *Spectator* says of the novel, "It is faulty, but fascinating; it is provoking, it is disappointing, it is occasionally preposterous, but it is delightful to read for all that . . . it is masterly as a romance." Also, the *Athenaeum* calls it "a charming novel, far in advance of Ouida's earlier novels."

THE bills show that over a hundred and fifty buyers were present at the Trade Sale. The *Tribune* estimates that three million books were sold, but from this a discount of two-thirds, we should judge, can safely be made. The invoices represented above \$300,000 worth at retail prices.

A. D. F. RANDOLPH & Co. make the following statement: "The 'New Cyclopaedia of Illustrative Anecdote,' imported by us, is found to be an infringing of the copyright of the 'New Cyclopaedia of Prose Illustrations,' by Rev. Elon Foster, published by W. C. Palmer, Jr., & Co., of New York. By special arrangements with them, which includes the payment of a copyright, we are permitted to dispose of our importation, after which the book will be withdrawn from the American market."

THE success of the first edition of Timrod's Poems (E. J. Hale & Son) was, most deservedly, so great that it was soon exhausted, and a second edition in the same attractive binding is before us, in which some twenty others of his poems are added by Mr. Hayne. Among them is the famous Ode which was the most beautiful poem Timrod ever wrote, indeed, one of the most beautiful poems ever written, while the others are among the finest specimens of his genius.

MR. T. H. MORREL will limit the edition of his Shakespeare memorial, of which we have before given the details, to twelve copies folio, at \$15, and thirty-eight royal octavo, at \$10 each. There will be several illustrations besides those of which we spoke.

"DETAIL, Cottage, and Constructive Architecture" is the title of a quarto volume of 75 plates, published under the direction of A. J. Bicknell, showing elevations for summer houses, sea-side cottages, villas, and the like; designs for street and store fronts, for inside finish of drug-stores, banks, etc.; framing for dwellings, exhibition buildings, roofs; designs for cornices, porches, windows, and multitudinous other models, making a work of great practical value to architects, builders, carpenters—to all who have to do with the erection or alteration of wood-work, either as a whole building or as interior portions of stone or brick edifices. The designs, plans, and elevations are very beautiful, fitting, and artistic; and are well set forth by the excellent printing and heavy paper.

A THIRD novel from Miss Mary Healey, author of "Lakeville" and "A Summer's Romance," may be expected shortly.

MR. CHAS. G. LELAND, better known nowadays as Hans Breitmann, has ready for publication a work entitled "The English Gipsies and their Language," consisting almost entirely of fresh material gathered from the Romany themselves. Among the results of Mr. Leland's research will, we are told, be found a number of almost unchanged Hindustani words not in any Romany vocabulary, nearly fifty stories in the original with a translation, and a collection of English words with Gipsy origin.

THE quaint town of — (we leave the name blank for fear of exciting local jealousy) has been known in New England society for the curious traits exhibited there of primitive New England character and manners. One constantly hears of its odd characters and queer ways, and Mr. George Lunt, so well known for his scholarly attainments and excellent style, has prepared a volume, soon to be issued by Hurd & Houghton, entitled "Old New England Traits," which, for its racy stories, its tales of witchcraft, and its humorous delineations of character, is likely to become a favorite like Dean Ramsay's "Scottish Reminiscences."—*Riverside Bulletin*.

A. J. BICKNELL & Co. publish this month a supplemental catalogue of descriptions of late works on Carpentry, Stair-Building, etc., that are not included in their general 32-page catalogue. They have now become a jobbing house for architectural books generally, having arrangements by which they supply all architectural books published by Geo. E. Woodward, Orange, Judd & Co., or other publishers at their rates, and keep them in stock. Dealers should keep this in mind.

"BETSY LEE" was, at our time of writing, in the Custom House, but Mr. Macmillan hoped to introduce her to the American public by the time this PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY makes its appearance. Much popularity is prophesied for this new dialect poem from a fresh field.

MR. JOHN G. SHEA, of 537 Pearl st., New York, announces that, at the urgent request of many scholars, he will revise his "Library of American Linguistics," adding to his stock of grammars and vocabularies of the Indian languages, a grammar and dictionary of the Haid-

atsa (Minnetaree or Gros Ventres of the Missouri), with a sketch of the tribe, by W. Matthews, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., commencing a new series of the Library. Subscriptions are invited for an edition of 100 copies, royal 8vo, of 196 pp., at \$6, and we sincerely trust that Mr. Shea will receive enough to encourage him to proceed with his scholarly enterprise. In this case, he will follow with an English-French-Mohawk Vocabulary, or Seneca Dictionary, and other contributions to the literature of our fast-disappearing aboriginal tongues.

H. B. NIMS & Co., Troy, have become the publishers of that beautiful volume, "The Annual Illustrated Catalogue and Oarsman's Manual," published by Walter Balch & Co. in 1871. The title has been changed into "The Illustrated Oarsman's Manual. Price, cloth, gilt, \$10.

HURD & HOUGHTON's capital "Satchel Guide to Europe" in its new edition will be enlarged by the addition of Italy and Austria, a valuable appendix respecting Vienna and the Exhibition, and information especially useful to the tourist this year; among other things a list of celebrated London preachers and their churches. The useful memoranda and expense account pages will be retained.

THE *Tribune* has almost a separate business in its lecture sheets, so successful have they been. No. 6 contains the lectures of the Cooper Union Scientific Course; and will also contain Prof. B. Silliman's lecture on "Deep Placer Mining;" Dr. R. W. Raymond's curious dissertation on "The Seven Senses;" three lectures by Prof. Louis Elsberg (illustrated) on "Sound and Hearing," on "Voice and Speech," and the "Explanation of Musical Harmony;" Mr. Parke Godwin's speech at the Tyndall dinner, and Prof. E. L. Youmans' reply and criticism. No. 7 will give some of Beecher's current lectures on preaching, and No. 8 the Zoological course Agassiz is now delivering in Cambridge. For their latter sheets it is taking advertisements at \$2 per line.

THE book on Ireland, by Father Thibaud (Appletons), proves not to be a history, but a study of the character of the Irish people. It will be ready in a few weeks.

### JOURNALISTIC.

FRANK LESLIE, the enterprising publisher, has started two new illustrated weeklies in the German language, viz.: *Tag für Tag*, illustrating all extraordinary events, and containing romances, novels, stories, poems, anecdotes, and fun—10 cents per number; and *Amerikanische Gartenlaube*, a German family paper, with original illustrations, choice literature, romances, novels, travel and adventure, biographical sketches, etc., 6 cents per number, or, semi-monthly in covers, 12 cents.

*Society Talk* is published every Saturday at 113 Nassau street, New York, at \$2 per annum.

*Vox Humana* is a new musical journal, issued monthly by George Woods & Co., Cambridgeport.

*The Sunday Review* is a new literary and family newspaper, published in Brooklyn.

*The Church Eclectic* is a new religious monthly, published in Utica, N. Y., under the editorship of Rev. Dr. Gibson.

THE large quarto magazine, hitherto known as the *Carriage Makers' International Journal*, has been much improved in its general appearance, the April number appearing under the title of the

*Carriage Monthly*. It is published by I. D. Ware, No. 737 Sansom street, Philadelphia, at \$3 per year.

THE April number of the *Bibliotheca Sacra* contains an unusual variety of papers. Prof. John P. Lacroix contributes two, one on St. Elizabeth, and one on Culmann's Christian Ethics. Prof. J. Leslie Porter, of Belfast, Ireland, discusses the still vexed question of miracles. F. Vinton, one of the librarians of Congress, makes an interesting study of St. Patrick's Purgatory and the Inferno of Dante. Recent works on prehistoric archæology are considered by the Rev. G. F. Wright. Prof. Harris, Prof. Park, Dr. Barrows, Frederic Gardiner, Joseph Cook, and Dr. Enoch Pond are the other contributors to this number.

*Scribner's Monthly* for May will have an article, by Stanley, on the Four Great African Travellers.

THE *Miners' Journal*, of Pottsville, has published an excellent *Coal Statistical Register*, which gives the statistics of the coal trade for 1872, and a review of the coal and iron industries of the United States.

*Every Saturday*, for April 12, has reprinted from the *Athenæum* that remarkable review of Bret Harte's Prose Works recently quoted in the *Publishers' Weekly*.

*Rowell's Newspaper Reporter*, for April 7, has a portrait and biographical sketch of James Montgomery Bailey, the much-quoted "*Danbury News man*."

THE American Notes in the *London Graphic* are written by Geo. M. Towle.

BRET HARTE's story of "Mrs. Skaggs's Husbands" appears in a recent number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* as "Les Maris de Madame Skaggs."

*The Free West*, a monthly paper published in London, is devoted to the spreading of information about the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil, for the benefit of those who wish to emigrate. By far the greater part of its abundant reading matter relates to this country.

*The Jewish World* is a new penny weekly paper published in London.

### BOOK AUCTIONS.

BANGS, MERWIN & Co., New York.—Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29 and 30, at 4 o'clock. Valuable and private library of choice and rare books, comprising many desirable works in history, biography, travels, poetry, etc., and a large number of elegantly illustrated books, some scarce; also a number of miscellaneous articles.

### CATALOGUES WANTED.

MAHAN & WALLACE, books, stationery, musical instruments, etc., wholesale and retail, Cortland, N. Y., want publishers' and manufacturers' catalogues and price lists.

HOWARD L. ROSS & CO. (successors to J. Holbrook & Co.), booksellers, stationers and music dealers, pianos, organs, etc., wholesale and retail, Opera House Book and Music Store, Hamilton, O., want publishers' and manufacturers' catalogues and price lists.

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